



USAID | PHILIPPINES
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of Program Resources Management

(632) 552-9907

January 10, 2008

“USAID/Philippines does not vouch for the accuracy or the opinions of the articles provided in this press clipping service and assumes no responsibility for their content. Please contact USAID/Philippines at infoph@usaid.gov if you have any questions about USAID programs and projects.”

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

(Education)

DepEd, Microsoft and USAID promote education growth in Mindanao

MICROSOFT and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Philippines), through Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM), intensified their commitment to enable students from conflict-affected communities in Mindanao have access to technology that enhances learning with the recent ceremonial signing formalizing a partnership between the two under the Global Framework Agreement.

The agreement presents the direction Microsoft and USAID will take as the two parties work together in the areas of Governance, Economic Growth, Health, Environmental Sustainability, Education, Capacity Building, Youth Empowerment and Disaster Response/Humanitarian Assistance.

Present during the signing were US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie A. Kenney and Rafael “Pepeng” Rollan, managing director, Microsoft

Philippines. Education Secretary Jesli Lapus; Jon Lindborg, mission director, USAID/Philippines; and Faycal Bouchlaghem, general manager for the Unlimited Potential Group, Microsoft Asia Pacific, witnessed the ceremony held before the participants of the Education Summit 2007.

“We are particularly excited with this groundbreaking partnership with Microsoft. I’d like to thank a great partner, Microsoft, for giving us

the technology that we need to reach the talented youth and the future leaders of the Philippines,” said Ambassador Kenney.

According to Rollan, Microsoft Philippines has been working with USAID since 2003. Through the Computer Literacy and Internet Connection Program of GEM, 655 secondary and elementary schools in Mindanao have received computers with Microsoft software, provided to GEM through a volume software licensing program under Partners in Learning (PIL).

PIL is the global program for education of Microsoft, with localized programs that seek to empower teachers and equip students with competitive skills. Under PIL, 751 educators from GEM’s partner public schools have taken part in training sessions that help them integrate technology effectively into teaching.

“Our aim is to ensure that schools in remote areas in Mindanao and



(Source: The Manila Times, 1/10/08, expats&diplomats)